

From: Barbara Bryant
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 2:32pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Having been in the business world for many years and exposed to the onset of the cyberage, I have never understood how anyone could say that Microsoft has been guilty of violating the anti-trust laws. Bill Gates took an EXPENSIVE product and made it available to the general public and to small business at a reasonable cost!

The suit against Microsoft originated with its unsuccessful competitors NOT with its consumers! Are we going to now see an era where one will be unable to go into competition across the street, sell a better product at a less expensive cost and be successful without some lawyer taking away that right? Thank God this could not happen during Henry Ford's day!

We Americans have seen many rights taken away from us in the past 25 years. It seems the only time we have a "right" is when it appeases the liberal ideology and I, for one, am sick and tired of it. It is NOT the government's place to protect any business from another in a so-called "free country"! AND, it is NOT the government's place (or any money-hungry lawyer) to see that I am protected from myself!

Men and women with the intelligence, foresight and GUTS to do what Bill Gates did should never have HIS PROPERTY taken away by a government - especially the AMERICAN government. HIS rights should be protected. And he should be shown as an example to ALL young Americans to encourage them to reach for the same stars rather than some rock star or athlete that manages to have 5 - 7 children out of wedlock before reaching the age of 25!

If the government really wanted to do something FOR THE PEOPLE of this country, why do we not see any investigations into the "non-profit" organizations that seem to have to account to NO ONE! It seems one can set up a "non-profit" organization, collect millions, show a very small percentage going to something or some organization that fits the "help a person" category, write off HUGE salaries and contributions to mistresses as "Consulting Fees", extort millions more from other businesses and the IRS "doesn't have the resources to investigate". Forget to include a 1099 from a measly oil royalty of \$136.00, as I did a couple of years ago (with a total income of less than \$40,000.00) and the IRS seems to have plenty of resources to conduct an audit.

Something dreadfully evil has crept into the American Government ideology and I predict as long as we hard-working, tax-paying Americans sit on our duffs without any outcry, our rights are going to continue to be whittled away in the name of "protecting us" and this country will fall into economic, social and moral disaster. Unfortunately, we have a very good foundation to that end today.

Yours truly,
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